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Message Text

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PAGE 01 LAGOS 14742 211646Z
ACTION AF-10

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 SCS-06 CA-01 HA-05 L-03 PRS-01
EB-08 /035 W
----------116852 212344Z /70
R 211620Z DEC 77
FM AMEMBASSY LAGOS
TO SECSTATE WASHDC 5540

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FOR AF/W

E.O. 11652: N/A
TAGS: CASC, NI, US, EINV, EFIN
SUBJECT: DETENTION OF LOUIS LEFEVRE

REF: STATE 301954

1. FOLLOWING IN PARAGRAPH 3 IS THE OPERATIVE LANGUAGE OF EMBASSY NOTE NO. 895 BEING SENT DECEMBER 21 TO MEA. THE LANGUAGE OF THE NOTE HAS BEEN CAREFULLY COORDINATED WITH LEFEVRE AND WITH THE AAIC LAWYER, FRED EGBE. AS AN ADDED ELEMENT IN OUR STRATEGY, WE HAD HOPED MYNS BOW THE NOTE TO TRADE MINISTRY PERMSEC ALHAJI ABUBAKAR PRIOR TO TRANSMITTING IT TO MEA. WE WERE UNABLE TO DO THIS SINCE ABUBAKAR LEFT EARLY THIS MORNING FOR CHRISTMAS VACATION IN MAIDUGURI.

2. EMBASSY NOTE NO. 861 WAS DATED DECEMBER 5, 1977. A COPY OF THAT NOTE WAS POUCHED TO THE DEPARTMENT. OPERATIVE PORTIONS OF NOTE 895 TEXT FOLLOW.

3. QUOTE: MR. LEFEVRE BELIEVES THAT HIS DETENTION AT IKIROKO BORDER POST AND SUBSEQUENT DETENTION IN LAGOS CAN BE ATTRIBUTED TO ALLEGED ACTIONS OF HIS COMPANY AS DESCRIBED IN A //REPORT OF INVESTIGATIONS OF OPERATION OF AMERICAN INTERNATIONAL INSURANCE
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COMPANY (NIGERIA LTD.// PREPARED BY MICHAEL O. ADELUKH. MR. LEFEVRE HAS GIVEN THE EMBASSY A COPY OF THIS REPORT AS WELL AS A COPY OF A LETTER TO THE PERMANENT SECRETARY OF THE MINISTRY OF TRADE IN WHICH HE RESPONDS TO THE REPORT'S ALLEGATIONS. ALTHOUGH THE EMBASSY WOULD NOT PRESUME TO TAKE A POSITION ON A MATTER THAT SHOULD BE RESERVED FOR THE NIGERIAN AUTHORITITES, THE EMBASSY SUGGESTS THERE IS NOTHING IN THESE

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DIFFERENCES OF VIEW THAT JUSTIFIED MR. LEFEVRE'S DETENTION
OR THE CONTINUED DENIAL OF RETURN OF HIS PASSPORT.
PARA. IN THE CONTINUED ABSENCE OF A RESPONSE TO EMBASSY NOTE
NO. 861, THE EMBASSY REMAINS CONCERNED ABOUT MR. LEFEVRE'S
FREEDOM OF MOVEMENT AND HIS ABILITY TO CARRY OUT HIS LEGITI-
MATE BUSINESS ACTIVITIES.
PARA. THE EMBASSY VIEWS MR. LEFEVRE'S RECENT DETENTION, THE
NON-RETURN OF HIS PASSPORT, AND THE LACK OF RESPONSE TO
EMBASSY NOTE NO. 861 AS AN UNFORTUNATE AUGURY FOR THE MEETING
BETWEEN FEDERAL MILITARY GOVERNMENT OFFICIALS AND AMERICAN
INTERNATIONAL GROUP (AIG) EXECUTIVES WHICH IS SCHEDULED IN
LAGOS ON JANUARY 5. (THE AIG IS THE PARENT COMPANY OF THE
AIIC.) THE EMBASSY THUS LOOKS FORWARD TO THE MINISTRY'S EARLY
EXPLANATION OF THE REASONS FOR MR. LEFEVRE'S DETENTION AND
REITERATES ITS REQUEST FOR THE PROMPT RETURN OF HIS PASSPORT.
UNQUOTE

4. BY ANOTHER NOTE TO MEA EMBASSY WILL RESPOND TO MEA'S
FORMAL NOTIFICATION TO US OF JANUARY 5 MEETING WITH AIG
EXECUTIVES. THIS NOTIFICATION RECEIVED DECEMBER 20.
EASUM

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Sent Date: 21-Dec-1977 12:00:00 am
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Decaption Note:
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Disposition Case Number: n/a
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